

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic appliance comprising a first casing having an input portion, a second casing having a screen display portion on one face thereof, a coupling that couples together the first and second casings, and a controller portion that controls screen display on the screen display portion,

wherein the coupling couples together the first and second casings in such a way that a state of the electronic appliance can be selected between a first state in which the second casing is unfolded relative to the first casing with the screen display portion pointing in a direction of the input portion and a second state in which the second casing is folded over the first casing with a face of the second casing opposite to the screen display portion facing a face of the first casing on which the input portion is provided, and

wherein, according to a detection signal from a detector that detects a change in the state of the electronic appliance between the first and second states, the controller portion rotates the screen display by 90° between in the first and second states.

2. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein the coupling is a hinge mechanism comprising a folding shaft that couples together one side of the first casing and one side of the second casing in such a way as to permit the second casing to be folded and unfolded relative to the first casing and a rotation shaft that is perpendicular to the folding shaft and that permits the second casing to rotate.

3. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein the second casing has a second screen display portion provided on the surface thereof opposite to the screen display portion.

4. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,
wherein, as seen in a plan view in the second state, the second casing and the coupling
are located within an area occupied by the first casing.

5. The electronic appliance according to claim 4,
wherein the first casing, as seen in a plan view, is rectangular in shape, and measures
70 to 100 mm in a direction of shorter sides thereof and 110 to 150 mm in a direction of
longer sides thereof.

6. The electronic appliance according to claim 5,
wherein, as seen in a plan view in the second state, a ratio of a dimension of the
coupling to a dimension of the second casing in the direction of the shorter sides is in a range
from 1 : 5 to 1 : 8.

7. The electronic appliance according to claim 1, further comprising:
a rotation inhibition input portion that inhibits the screen display from being rotated by
90°.

8. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,
wherein, in the second state, input signals from at least part of the input portion are
ignored.

9. The electronic appliance according to claim 8,

wherein, in the second state, input signals from a part of the input portion located in an edge portion of the first casing and away from the coupling are ignored.

10. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein the screen display portion is rectangular in shape, and carriage returns in contents of the screen display are executed at different positions between in the first and second states according to a height and a width of the screen display portion that vary between in the first and second states.

11. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein the detector detects the second state.

12. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein a change in the state of the electronic appliance is detected by use of two or more detectors, and a not-in-use state in which the second casing is folded over the first casing with the face of the second casing on which the screen display portion is provided facing the face of the first casing on which the input portion is provided is also detected, and wherein, in the not-in-use state, the screen display portion is distinguished.

13. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein at least one of the detectors is provided at where the first and second casings are coupled together.

14. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein at least one of the detectors is realized with a hole device.

15. The electronic appliance according to claim 1,

wherein an operation portion that permits operations to be performed to control contents of the screen display is provided in a right-hand portion of a rear face of the first casing as seen from in front when the electronic appliance is in the first state, and

wherein, when the state of the electronic appliance is changed from the first state to the second state, the screen display is rotated counter-clockwise by 90° as seen from the coupling, and the operation portion is located in an upper portion of a left-hand side face of the electronic appliance when the electronic appliance is used in the second state.

16. A method of using an electronic appliance, comprising the step of:

presenting information to a third party by using the electronic appliance according to claim 11 in such a way that the screen display portion is rotated from the first state, in which the screen display portion points in the direction of the input portion, into a direction in which the face of the second casing opposite to the screen display portion points in the direction of the input portion so that the screen display portion points toward the third party.

17. An electronic appliance comprising a first casing, a second casing, a coupling that couples together the first and second casings, and a flexible connecting member that electrically connects together the first and second casings,

wherein the coupling is a two-axis hinge mechanism comprising a folding shaft that permits the second casing to be folded and unfolded relative to the first casing and a rotation shaft that is perpendicular to the folding shaft and that permits the second casing to rotate, and

wherein the flexible connecting member is wound around surfaces of both the folding shaft and rotation shaft.

18. The electronic appliance according to claim 17,

wherein, in at least one of the folding shaft and rotation shaft, a groove is formed through which to lay the flexible connecting member along the shaft.

19. The electronic appliance according to claim 17,

wherein the flexible connecting member includes a portion that is so shaped that a first wound portion wound around the folding shaft and a second wound portion wound around the rotation shaft are laid substantially parallel to each other with one ends of the first and second wound portions linked together with a straight middle portion.

20. The electronic appliance according to claim 17,

wherein the flexible connecting member is a flexible printed circuit board.

21. The electronic appliance according to claim 17,

wherein, as the flexible connecting member, two or more flexible connecting members are laid on one another.

22. The electronic appliance according to claim 21,

wherein at least one ends of the two or more flexible connecting members are laid so as to point in a same direction.

23. The electronic appliance according to claim 21,
wherein at least one ends of the two or more flexible connecting members are laid so as to point in opposite directions.

24. The electronic appliance according to claim 21,
wherein two slits are formed in one flexible connecting member and two tongue-like protrusions not greater than the slits are formed on another flexible connecting member so that the flexible connecting members are bundled together with the tongue-like protrusions inserted in the slits.

25. The electronic appliance according to claim 17,
wherein a screen display portion is provided on at least one face of the second casing, and a portion of the flexible connecting member located inside the second casing is laid between a rear face of the screen display portion and an inner face of the second casing.

26. An electronic appliance comprising a first casing, a second casing, a coupling that couples together the first and second casings, and a flexible connecting member that electrically connects together the first and second casings,

wherein the coupling is a two-axis hinge mechanism comprising a folding shaft that permits the second casing to be folded and unfolded relative to the first casing and a rotation shaft that is perpendicular to the folding shaft and that permits the second casing to rotate, at least one of the folding shaft and rotation shaft being made hollow, and

wherein the flexible connecting member is formed into a coil-like shape and laid inside whichever of the folding shaft and rotation shaft is hollow, and is wound around a

surface of whichever of the folding shaft and rotation shaft is not hollow.

27. The electronic appliance according to claim 26,
wherein the flexible connecting member is a flexible printed circuit board.

28. The electronic appliance according to claim 26,
wherein, as the flexible connecting member, two or more flexible connecting members
are laid on one another.

29. The electronic appliance according to claim 28,
wherein at least one ends of the two or more flexible connecting members are laid so
as to point in a same direction.

30. The electronic appliance according to claim 28,
wherein at least one ends of the two or more flexible connecting members are laid so
as to point in opposite directions.

31. The electronic appliance according to claim 28,
wherein two slits are formed in one flexible connecting member and two tongue-like
protrusions not greater than the slits are formed on another flexible connecting member so
that the flexible connecting members are bundled together with the tongue-like protrusions
inserted in the slits.

32. The electronic appliance according to claim 26,

wherein a screen display portion is provided on at least one face of the second casing, and a portion of the flexible connecting member located inside the second casing is laid between a rear face of the screen display portion and an inner face of the second casing.